

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs as indicated by the following to conform to the claim language and without introducing new matter:

Paragraph [0005]:

In a second separate aspect of the present invention, an end piece extends across ~~the open~~ an access end of the mount and provides a frangible sealing web between the mount and the end piece. Sealing and protection of the luer hub of the needle assembly may be accomplished by such an end piece.

Paragraph [0026]:

The mount 34 has an ~~open~~ access end which is closed by an end piece 42. The end piece 42 extends across the ~~open~~ access end of the mount 34 and is fixed thereto by a frangible sealing web 44 which extends about the end of the mount 34 where the channel 36 intersects the end piece 42 in a U-shaped configuration. The end piece 42 includes a finger tab 46 for gripping the end piece 42 to tear the sealing web 44 and fully remove the end piece 42. Through the removal of the end piece 42, access is provided through the ~~open~~ access end of the mount 34 to the socket of the luer hub 16.

Paragraph [0030]:

The safety shield further includes a flexible tear strip 64. The flexible tear strip 64 extends over the open cavity from the closed end portion of the cover 26 to the end piece 42. It is sealed to the edges of the channels defining the cover 26 and the mount 34, including about the closed end portion of the cover 26 and across the end piece 42 closing the ~~open~~ access of the mount 34. The flexible tear strip 64 also seals to the ends of the locking web ~~59~~ 50 and to the ends of the sealing web 44. This sealing is all

accomplished with the cover 26 extending over the needle 14 to seal the entire interior of the elongate cavity of the shield body 24. The flexible tear strip 64 may include a tab extending beyond the periphery of the shield body 24 for easy purchase. The strip 64 may be of paper or plasticized paper, plastic, aluminum foil or other appropriate material.